

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 13-15, and 17-19 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 13-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

By the instant amendment, Claims 13-15 and 17 have been amended to take into consideration the helpful comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-11, 13-15, and 17-19 are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicants believe is their invention.

Turning now to the art rejection, Claims 2-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Kurtz in view of Ogasawara.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Kurtz does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the train of EFO current pulses providing continual series of pulses of progressively lower heights yet various pulse width.

Applicants agree with the Examiner by evidence by page 3 of the Office Action that Kurtz does not disclose this feature.

It is respectfully submitted that Ogasawara does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the trains of EFO current pulses providing continual series of pulses of progressively lower heights yet various pulse width.

The Examiner alleges that Ogasawara teaches a series of pulses namely I_{SP} , I_{AP} and I_{AB} .

However, the pulse I_{SP} does not relate to the arc but relates to short circuiting.

Consequently, the reference teaches that only I_{AP} and I_{AB} relate to the arc and consequently does not disclose the claimed subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the indication that if Claims 13 and 17 were rewritten or made to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph these claims would be allowable.

In light of the fact that this § 112 second paragraph rejection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 13 and 17 are allowable.

Furthermore, Applicants appreciate the indication that if Claims 14-15 and 18-19 overcome the rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims these claims would be allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome and these claims are allowable.

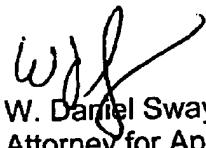
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is

respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Daniel Swayze, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 34,478

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
(972) 917-5633